AN

ORATION

ON THE

DISCOVERY

OF

America,

DELIVERED

IN LONDON,

OCTOBER the 12th, 1792,

BEING THREE HUNDERD YEARS FROM THE DAY ON WHICH

COLUMBUS

LANDED IN

THE NEW WORLD.

THE SECOND EDITION,

WITH

AN APPENDIX,

containing, among other Things,

A DESCRIPTION

of the

CITY OF WASHINGTON,

IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA;

illustrated with an

ACCURATE ENGRAVING.

BY ELHANAN WINCHESTER.

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BRITISH
MUSEUM

AN

ORATION, &c.

I Have for ſome years had it upon my mind, that if Providence preſerved my life to the cloſe of the third century, from the diſcovery of America by Columbus, that I would celebrate that great event, by a publick diſcourſe upon the occaſion.

And although I ſincerely wiſh that ſome ſuperior genius would take up the ſubject, and treat it with the attention that it deſerves, yet conſcious as I am of my own inability, I am perſuaded that America, has not a warmer friend in the world than myſelf, not one who more ſincerely wiſhes its happineſs, peace, and proſperity; and therefore I will endeavour to do the beſt I can, and hope my beloved countrymen will excuſe the defects of this compoſition, and accept it as a token of my love and regard to my native country.

The diſcovery of America by Columbus was ſituated, in point of time, between two great events, which have cauſed it to be much more noticed, and have rendered it far more important, than it would otherwiſe have been. I mean *the art of printing*, which was diſcovered about the year 1440, and which has been and will be of infinite uſe to mankind; and *the reformation* from Popery, which began about the year 1517, the effects of which have already been highly beneficial in a political, as well as in a religious point of light, and will ſtill continue and increaſe.

Theſe three great events, the *art of printing*,—the *diſcovery of America*,—and the *reformation*, followed each other in quick ſucceſſion; and, combined together, have already produced much welfare and happineſs to mankind, and certainly will produce abundance more. By the art of printing, knowledge is far more generally diffuſed among mankind, and at far leſs expence than otherwiſe it could have been: and as knowledge is extended, ſo, in proportion, is civilization, and all the arts and ſciences that enrich, and embelliſh ſociety. But what I eſteem more than every thing elſe is, that by the noble art of printing, Bibles, in various languages, are ſo multiplied that they will never more become ſcarce, nor will there ever more be ſo much as the ſhadow of danger of the ſacred writings being loſt or deſtroyed out of the world.

By

By the diſcovery of America, there was much room given to the inhabitants of the old world: an aſylum was prepared for the perſecuted of all nations to fly to for ſafety; and a grand theatre was erected where Liberty might ſafely lift up her ſtandard, and triumph over all the foes of freedom. America may be called, *The very birth-place of civil and religious liberty*, which had never been known to mankind until ſince the diſcovery of that country.

By the Reformation, which ſo ſoon followed the diſcovery of America, the minds of men began to emerge out of that darkneſs, ignorance, blindneſs, bondage, idolatry, and ſuperſtition, in which they had grovelled for ages; and they have been ſince gradually opening to greater degrees of knowledge and intellectual improvement.

But the event that we celebrate on this day is the diſcovery of America; to which event, and the great conſequences that have already flowed, and will probably hereafter flow, from it, I ſhall principally confine myſelf in this diſcourſe.

It will be proper here to give a brief hiſtorical account of the diſcovery of America, by Columbus, for the information of thoſe who have not had an opportunity of reading hiſtory.

Chriſtopher Columbus was a native of the little ſtate of Genoa, he was a man of more than common penetration. From a long and diligent ap-

plication to the ſtudies of geography and navigation, for which his genius was naturally inclined, he had obtained a knowledge of the true form of the earth, much ſuperior to the general notions of the age in which he lived. He conceived, that in order that the terraqueous globe might be properly balanced, and the lands and ſeas proportioned to each other, that another continent was neceſſary. Thus he was far wiſer than the ancients, who treated the idea of antipodes with contempt; and ſome of the chriſtian fathers went ſo far as to account it an error little ſhort of damnable hereſy.

As early as the year 1474, Columbus communicated his ingenious theory to Paul, a phyſician of Florence, eminent for his knowledge of coſmography. He warmly approved it, ſuggeſted ſeveral facts in confirmation of it, and encouraged Columbus in an undertaking ſo laudable, and which promiſed ſo much benefit to the world at large.

Having fully ſatisfied himſelf that his ſyſtem was founded in truth, he was exceedingly deſirous of reducing it to practice. The firſt ſtep towards the accompliſhment of this, was to ſecure the patronage of ſome of the European potentates. Accordingly he laid his ſcheme before the ſenate of Genoa, making his native country the firſt tender of his ſervices. But they rejected his propoſal as the dream of a chimerical projector.

It

It might, in this reſpect, be ſaid of Columbus, as our Saviour ſaid of himſelf; "No prophet is accepted in his own country." It ſhewed, however, a good diſpoſition in Columbus, to tender his ſervices firſt to his own countrymen; and they muſt have afterwards been highly diſpleaſed with themſelves that they had not encouraged him.

He next applied himſelf to John II, king of Portugal, a monarch of an enterpriſing genius, and a very competent judge of naval affairs. The king liſtened to him in the moſt favourable manner, and referred the conſideration of his plan, to a number of eminent coſmographers, whom he was accuſtomed to conſult in matters of this kind. Theſe men, from mean and intereſted views, ſtarted innumerable objections, and aſked many captious queſtions, on purpoſe to betray Columbus into a full explanation of his ſyſtem. Having done this, they adviſed the king to diſpatch a veſſel ſecretly, in order to attempt the propoſed diſcovery, by following exactly the courſe Columbus had pointed out. John forgetting, on this occaſion, the ſentiments becoming a monarch, meanly adopted their perfidious counſel. Upon diſcovering this diſhonourable tranſaction, Columbus quitted the kingdom, and landed in Spain in the year 1484.

Here he preſented his ſcheme in perſon to Ferdinand and Iſabella, who at that time governed

the united kingdoms of Caſtile and Arragon. They injudiciouſly ſubmitted it to the examination of unſkilful judges, who, ignorant of the principles on which Columbus founded his theory, rejected it as abſurd, upon the credit of this fooliſh maxim,—"That it is preſumptuous in any perſon to ſuppoſe, that he alone poſſeſſes knowledge ſuperior to all the reſt of mankind united." Whereas the fact is, that every perſon who firſt makes any new diſcovery, in that inſtance, poſſeſſes more knowledge than all the reſt of mankind put together. Theſe ignorant Spaniards alſo maintained, that if there were really any ſuch countries as Columbus pretended, they would not have remained ſo long concealed, nor would the wiſdom and ſagacity of former ages have left the glory of this diſcovery to an obſcure Genoeſe pilot. Thus they deſpiſed the plan on account of the obſcurity of its projector, and that it was not diſcovered by the great and the wiſe. Thus was Chriſtianity itſelf deſpiſed by many for the ſame abſurd reaſon; and almoſt every ſcience that has eſſentially benefited mankind; it being generally the pleaſure of God to make uſe of thoſe inſtruments which the world accounts mean, for the diſcovery and propagation of uſeful things.

Mean while Columbus had taken the precaution of ſending his brother Bartholomew into England to negotiate the matter with Henry VII. On his

voyage

voyage to England, he fell into the hands of pirates, who ſtripped him of every thing, and detained him a priſoner ſeveral years. At length he made his eſcape, and arrived at London in extreme indigence, where he employed himſelf ſome time in ſelling maps. With his gains he purchaſed a deſent dreſs; and, in perſon, preſented to the king the propoſals which his brother had entruſted to his management.

One is almoſt tempted to lament, that England ſhould not have had the glory and honour of encouraging this great man, and eſpecially as the king of England was the moſt rich and powerful monarch of Europe, and therefore could beſt have ſuſtained the expence of the voyage, and protected, ſupported, and rewarded, the worthy navigator. But though Henry received the propoſals with more approbation than they had commonly met with, yet his extreme caution and parſimony cauſed him to neglect the prize then offered to his hand.

In France, the ſcheme of Columbus was not only rejected, but treated with the utmoſt contempt, both by the Court and the common people, and the projector looked upon as no better than a mad man.

After ſeveral other applications to other European powers of leſs note, Columbus was induced, by the intreaty and interpoſition of Perez, a man of conſiderable learning, and of ſome credit with

queen

queen Iſabella, to apply again to the court of Spain. This application, after ſome debate, and ſeveral mortifying repulſes, proved ſucceſsful; not however, without the moſt vigorous and perſevering exertions of Quintilla and Santangel, two vigilant and diſcerning patrons of Columbus, whoſe meritorious zeal in promoting this grand deſign, entitles their names to an honourable mention in the hiſtoric page. It was, however, to queen Iſabella, the munificent patroneſs of his noble and generous deſigns, that Columbus ultimately owed his ſucceſs.

Having thus obtained the aſſiſtance of the court, three ſmall veſſels were fitted out, victualed for twelve months, and furniſhed with ninety men. The whole expence did not exceed 4000l. and to raiſe even this ſum, the queen ſold or pawned part of her jewels. Of this little ſquadron Columbus was appointed admiral.

Thus after waſting, as it were, eighteen years of his uſeful life in unſucceſsful applications to almoſt all the courts in Europe, he at laſt ſucceeded in being truſted with a ſmall fleet, for the accompliſhment of this moſt important enterprize. It is a great wonder that he had not long before been entirely diſcouraged, and given up the deſign; but God, who had raiſed him up for this purpoſe, gave him a fortitude and reſolution far beyond what is common to men, and which enabled him to endure what would have been otherwiſe impoſſible.

On the 3d of Auguſt, 1492, he left Spain in the preſence of a crowd of ſpectators, who united their ſupplications to Heaven for his ſucceſs. He ſteered directly for the Canary Iſlands, where he arrived, and refitted as well as he could, his crazy and ill appointed fleet; from thence he ſailed, September the 6th, a due weſtern courſe into an unknown ocean.

Columbus now found a thouſand unforeſeen hardſhips to encounter, which demanded all his judgment, fortitude and addreſs, to ſurmount. Beſides the difficulties unavoidable, from the nature of his undertaking, he had to ſtruggle with thoſe which aroſe from the ignorance and timidity of the people under his command. They, getting into the trade winds, were alarmed, leſt they ſhould never be able to return again, but ſhould be driven farther and farther till they ſhould periſh.

On the 14th of September, Columbus was aſtoniſhed to find, that the magnetic needle, in their compaſs, did not point exactly to the polar ſtar, but varied towards the weſt; and, as they proceeded, this variation increaſed. This new phenomenon filled the companions of Columbus with terror. Nature itſelf ſeemed to have ſuſtained a change: and, the only guide they had left to point them to a ſafe retreat, from an unbounded and trackleſs ocean, was about to fail them. Columbus,

bus, with no leſs quickneſs than ingenuity, aſſigned a reaſon for this appearance, which, though it did not ſatisfy himſelf, ſeemed ſo plauſible to them, that it diſpelled their fears, or ſilenced their murmurs.

The ſailors, always diſcontented, and alarmed at their diſtance from land, ſeveral times mutinied, threatened once to throw their admiral overboard, and inſiſted on his returning. Columbus on theſe trying occaſions, diſplayed all that cool deliberation, prudence, ſoothing addreſs, and firmneſs, which were neceſſary for a perſon engaged in a diſcovery the moſt intereſting to the world of any ever undertaken by man.

It was on the 11th of October, 1492, at ten o'clock in the evening, that Columbus, from the forecaſtle, deſcried a light. And at two o'clock the next morning, October 12th, 1492, three hundred years ago this day, Roderic Triana diſcovered land. The joyful tidings were quickly communicated to the other ſhips. The morning light confirmed the report; and the ſeveral crews began *Te Deum*, as a hymn of thankſgiving to God; and mingled their praiſes with tears of joy and tranſports of congratulation. Columbus, richly dreſt, with a drawn ſword in his hand, firſt ſet his foot on the new world which he had diſcovered. The iſland on which he firſt landed he called *St. Salvador*; it is one of that large cluſter of iſlands,

known

known by the name of the Lucaya, or Bahama iſles, of which New Providence is at preſent one of the moſt noted. Sailing farther to the ſouthward, he diſcovered the iſlands of Cuba and Hiſpaniola, two of the largeſt of the Weſt-India iſlands, which he found full of inhabitants, and abounding in all the neceſſaries of life.

Thus, on this day, three hundred years ago, that great man, Chriſtopher Columbus, diſcovered thoſe iſlands, which ought to have been called The Columbian Iſlands; and the continent, which he diſcovered in his third voyage, ought in all reaſon to have been called Columbia. But, alas! this great man did not meet with the returns of gratitude and reſpect which he merited, no, not ſo much as to have his name given to the country which he diſcovered. Americus Veſpucius obtained that honour without having any claim to it. He was a Florentine gentleman, whom Ferdinand had appointed to draw ſea charts, and to whom he had given the title of Chief Pilot. This man accompanied Ojeda, an enterprizing Spaniſh adventurer, to the new world, and having with much art, and ſome degree of elegance, drawn up an amuſing hiſtory of his voyage, he publiſhed the ſame, and it circulated rapidly, and was read with admiration. In his narrative, he inſinuated that the glory of diſcovering the continent in the new world belonged to him. This was in part believed, and the country

began to be called after the name of its ſuppoſed firſt diſcoverer. The unaccountable caprice of mankind has perpetuated the error; ſo that hitherto, by the univerſal conſent of all nations, this new quarter of the globe has been called *America*. The name of Americus has ſupplanted that of Columbus, and mankind are left to regret an act of injuſtice, which, having been ſanctioned by time, it will be found difficult, if not impoſſible, wholly to redreſs. Nevertheleſs I ſincerely wiſh the United States would make the attempt, by altering the name in their juriſdiction, and ſtiling themſelves, THE UNITED STATES OF COLUMBIA.

As for Columbus himſelf, the latter part of his life was made wretched by the cruel and ignoble envy, and perſecutions of his enemies. Queen Iſabella, his friend and patroneſs, was no longer alive to afford him relief; he ſought redreſs from Ferdinand, but in vain.

Diſguſted with the ingratitude of a monarch, whom he had ſerved with ſo much fidelity and ſucceſs, exhauſted with hardſhips, and broken with the infirmities which theſe had brought upon him, Columbus ended his active and uſeful life at Valladolid, on the 20th of May, 1506, in the 59th year of his age. He died with a compoſure of mind ſuited to the magnanimity of his character, and with ſentiments of piety becoming that ſupreme reſpect for religion which he manifeſted in every occurrence

of

of his life. He was grave, though courteous in his deportment, circumſpect in his words and actions, irreproachable in his morals, and exemplary in all the duties of his religion. Thus much for Columbus. Thoſe who are the greateſt benefactors of mankind, ſeldom meet with much gratitude from men in their lives. They muſt look to God for their reward, and leave it to future generations to do juſtice to their memory.

It was very unfortunate for the natives of America, that the country fell into the hands of ſuch a cruel, covetous, and bigotted nation as the Spaniards were. Their thirſt for gold was inſatiable, and the cruelties which they exereiſed upon the natives are too horrid to recite. The Spaniſh writers themſelves tell us, that in the courſe of forty years they deſtroyed fifteen millions of theſe poor unſuſpecting creatures. There is a great deal of blood to be required of that nation, and the time of its viſitation is, perhaps, not far diſtant.

For more than an hundred and ten years from the firſt diſcovery of the country, the Spaniards were the only Europeans that made any permanent ſettlements upon any of the iſlands, or any part of the continent. Several attempts had indeed been made by the Engliſh and French nations to eſtabliſh ſettlements in America, but all proved abortive for about an hundred and fifteen years.

The firſt permanent Engliſh ſettlement that was made

made in America was in Virginia, at a place called James Town, in the year 1607, in the reign of James I, king of England; and even this ſettlement, on the 7th of June, 1610, was broke up, with intent to return to England, but fortunately the day after they ſailed they met Lord Delaware coming over with freſh recruits, and he perſuaded them to return with him to James Town, where they landed the 10th of June, and from that time kept poſſeſſion.

The ſettlement in New England was begun in the month of November, 1620, at a place called Plymouth, about 40 miles from Boſton, in the ſtate of Maſſachuſetts. This ſettlement firſt conſiſted of a few poor perſecuted Chriſtians, about an hundred and one in number, who landed upon an unknown and unhoſpitable ſhore, in a very inclement ſeaſon of the year. Their ſituation was diſtreſſing, and their proſpect truly diſmal and diſcouraging. Their neareſt neighbours, except the natives, were a ſmall Dutch ſettlement at New York, a French ſettlement at Port Royal, and one of the Engliſh at Virginia. The neareſt of theſe was 200 miles from them, and utterly incapable of affording them relief, in time of famine and danger. Wherever they turned their eyes, diſtreſs was before them. Perſecuted for their religion, in their native land—grieved for the profanation of the Lord's day, and other licentiouſneſs in Holland—

land—fatigued by their long and boiſterous voyage—diſappointed through the treachery of their commander, of their expected country—forced on a dangerous and unknown ſhore, in the advance of a cold winter—ſurrounded by hoſtile barbarians, without any hope of human ſuccour—denied the aid or favour of the court of England—without a patent—without a public promiſe of the peaceable enjoyment of their religious liberties—worn out with toils and ſufferings—without convenient ſhelter from the rigours of the weather. Such were the proſpects, and ſuch the ſituation of theſe pious ſolitary chriſtians. To add to their diſtreſſes, a general and very mortal ſickneſs prevailed among them, which ſwept off forty ſix of their number before the opening of the next Spring. To ſupport them under theſe trials, they had need of all the aids and comforts which chriſtianity affords; and theſe were ſufficient. The free and unmoleſted enjoyment of their religion, reconciled them to their humble and lonely ſituation—they bore their hardſhips with unexampled patience, and perſevered in their pilgrimage of almoſt unparallelled trials, with ſuch reſignation and calmneſs, as gave proof of great piety and unconquerable virtue.

And God was pleaſed to preſerve and proſper this feeble ſettlement, ſo that it never was broken up; but it hath remained to this day, though ſo many other attempts from worldly motives had

been entirely fruſtrated, although encouraged by government, and apparently ten times abler to ſubſiſt than this.

But I cannot pretend to give an hiſtory of the Engliſh ſettlements in America, from their commencement to the preſent time. I can only conſider the great importance of the diſcovery of America as it appears at preſent, and conjecture a little as to the time to come.

The diſcovery of America has opened an amazing field for ſpeculation to all ſorts of enquirers; the philoſopher, the natural hiſtorian, the chymiſt, the botaniſt, the politician, the poet and the divine, may all find ample room to range in this wide field; the numerous ſubjects can hardly ever be exhauſted, and the pleaſure which curious and enquiring minds may find in their ſeveral enquiries is inexpreſſible.

The firſt queſtion that naturally ſtrikes an inquiſitive mind is, How came this vaſt continent, which is at ſuch a diſtance from Europe, to be peopled? Or, from whence did the firſt ſettlers come? This queſtion has perplexed all enquirers until the preſent age; but it is now made as eaſy by the late diſcoveries of the famous Captain Cook, and his companions, as it was difficult before. In his laſt voyage he ſailed ſo far to the northward, on the backſide of the continent, as to diſcover with certainty, that Aſia and America are ſeparated by a ſtraight only 18 miles wide; they

they had the pleaſure of ſeeing both continents at once from the ſhips' decks as they ſailed between them. And they diſcovered that the inhabitants on each continent are ſimilar, and that they frequently paſs and repaſs in canoes from one ſhore to the other. There is therefore no room to doubt but the general part of the natives of America came from the north-eaſt parts of Aſia, and firſt croſſed over upon the ice in the Winter, or in their canoes in the Summer, both which might be eaſily done. And it is not yet determined with certainty, but that the two continents of Aſia and America may join together ſomewhere in the polar circle. But if not, there is little or no difficulty in accounting for the firſt ſettlement of America, as the ſtraight between them is ſo narrow. But ſince the Eſquimaux Indians are manifeſtly a ſeparate ſpecies of men, diſtinct from all the nations of the American continent, in language, in diſpoſition, and in habits of life; and in all theſe reſpects bear a near reſemblance to the northern Europeans, it is therefore believed that they emigrated from the north weſt parts of Europe. Several circumſtances confirm this belief. As early as the ninth century, the Norwegians diſcovered Greenland, and planted colonies there. The communication with that country, after long interruption, has been renewed in the preſent century. Some Moravian Miſſionaries, prompted by zeal for propagating the chriſtian

faith, having ventured to ſettle in this frozen region. From them we learn that the north-weſt coaſt of Greenland is ſeparated from America by a very narrow ſtraight, if ſeparated at all; and that the Eſquimaux of America, perfectly reſemble the Greenlanders in their aſpect, dreſs, mode of living, and language. By theſe deciſive facts, not only the conſanguinity of the Eſquimaux and Greenlanders is eſtabliſhed, but the poſſibility of peopling America from the north-weſt parts of Europe. On the whole, it appears rational to conclude, that the progenitors of all the American nations, from Cape Horn to the ſouthern limits of Labrador, from the ſimilarity of their aſpect, colour, &c. migrated from the north-eaſt parts of Aſia; and that the nations that inhabit Labrador, Eſquimaux, and the parts adjacent, from their unlikeneſs to the reſt of the American nations, and their reſemblance to the northern Europeans, came over from the north-weſt parts of Europe.

It is further evident, that the firſt inhabitants of America came from the northern parts of the globe, and not from the ſouthern; becauſe that in all America there was not found any animal that properly belonged to the warm or temperate countries of the eaſtern continent, nor any but ſuch as were capable of paſſing through the cold regions of the north, by which courſe they undoubtedly came to that country. And therefore the two continents

towards

towards the northern extremity are ſo nearly united as that theſe animals might paſs from the one to the other.

Another queſtion may be aſked of conſiderable importance, reſpecting the original inhabitants of America, and that is, From what original ſtock did thoſe proceed who came from the north-eaſt part of Aſia? I am very apt to conclude, from a variety of circumſtances, and ſeveral well eſtabliſhed facts, that they are ſome of the remains of the ten tribes of the children of Iſrael. Neither is the objection which ſome have made to this opinion of any weight with me, viz. that the ten tribes had the knowledge of letters, and knew how to read and write; but the American Indians were totally ignorant of theſe noble arts. For it ſeems probable to me that the Iſraelites, even in their own land before the captivity, had not generally the knowledge of letters among them as we have, not by any means ſo perfectly, or ſo univerſally: it muſt have been ſtill more difficult to have retained this knowledge in a ſtate of captivity, and perhaps their conquerors might have deſtroyed what few manuſcripts they found amongſt them, and perhaps forbad them to teach their children letters; and thus, in a very few generations, all that kind of knowledge might be totally forgotten. It is well known that the getting and keeping knowledge requires conſiderable labour and toil; but it may be very eaſily loſt by indolence

dolence and inattention, to which the nature of man too much tends, and eſpecially in a ſavage, and more ſo in a captive, ſtate. But above all, facts are ſtubborn things, and it is well known that many nations who once were renowned for wiſdom and learning, are now as much noted for their ſtupidity and ignorance, even though they have continued in their own land; how much more probable it is that theſe poor captives ſhould, in ſo many removals, have loſt the little knowledge their anceſtors once poſſeſſed!

Beſides, before the art of printing was invented, it was an hundred times eaſier for people to be deprived of the knowledge of letters than it would be now.

America contains many ſubjects of ſpeculation beſides its inhabitants; ſuch as its amazing extent, near eight thouſand miles in length, and in ſome places, three thouſand in breadth; its unbounded foreſts; its unexplored countries; its vaſt and extenſive lakes; its amazing rivers, the longeſt and largeſt in the world; its aſtoniſhing mountains, the loftieſt and moſt extenſive on the globe; its numerous mineral, animal, and vegetable productions. All theſe are great ſubjects, and afford much matter for ſpeculation. Nature, in America, acts upon a very large ſcale; it is a world by itſelf; well watered every where, and filled with plenty of all good things. Its brooks would in Europe be called

rivers,

rivers, its lakes *ſeas*; its hills *mountains*; but its higheſt mountains and largeſt rivers, have nothing in the old world to compare with them. Rivers of more than three thouſand miles in length, and in ſome places, an hundred and fifty miles wide; and ridges of mountains three or four thouſand miles in length, and in ſome places more than twenty thouſand feet in height, are ſuch ſtupendous wonders of nature as are not elſewhere to be found.

But the diſcovery of America hath not only opened a wide field for ſpeculation, but an amazing place for habitation. The preſent number of its inhabitants are commonly reckoned at 160 millions, but this is a moſt extravagant miſtake, which the leaſt reflection might correct. For it muſt be acknowledged that the United States, taken together, are far more populous than any other place of equal extent in America; and yet their whole population, except the Indians within their territories, did not a year ago amount to four millions; but allowing Indians and all, that there are five millions within their boundaries, which I believe is more than the truth; and then, granting for argument's ſake, that all America is equally populous taken together, which certainly it is not, yet in that caſe the number of the inhabitants would not exceed 70 millions; as the boundaries of the United States contain the 14th part of the whole continent. But as it is well known that the ſavages, from their man-

ner of life, and their ſubſiſtence being chiefly from hunting, &c. require a vaſtly larger extent of land to ſubſiſt upon, in proportion to their numbers than thoſe do who cultivate the earth, we cannot ſuppoſe thoſe vaſt unknown tracts of country over which they rove to contain a tenth part of the inhabitants, in proportion as the cultivated and civilized countries do; and therefore inſtead of 70 millions of inhabitants in America, I ſhould by no means imagine them to exceed 20 millions in the whole; compoſed of aboriginal natives, Europeans, and their deſcendants, and Africans that have been imported for the purpoſes of ſlavery, and their deſcendants.

But if all America was as populous as the ſtate of Connecticut, it would contain near ſeven hundred millions of inhabitants; if it was inhabited in proportion to Great Britain, it would contain one thouſand and five hundred millions; or if it was as fully peopled as Holland, which is the moſt populous part of Europe, it would contain three thouſand three hundred and four millions, or about four times the preſent ſuppoſed inhabitants of the globe. Conſidered in this light, what an aſtoniſhing ſcene riſes to our view! God, who formed the earth, created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited; and I have no doubt that before the conflagration takes place, the earth ſhall be inhabited and cultivated to the utmoſt poſſible extent; this ſhall be in the glorious millenium, or the thouſand

years

years reign of Chriſt on the earth; which happy period is faſt approaching, and I truſt is even at the door. Then, and not till then, ſhall the full importance of the diſcovery of America be known. From America, the greater part of the gold and ſilver of Europe, has been imported; that amazing quantity of wealth which the ſeveral nations of Europe poſſeſs has been chiefly derived from that country. About five millions ſterling are annually imported in ſilver and gold from America, into Liſbon and Cadiz, and thence diſperſed through all Europe. So that the ſum of one thouſand and five hundred millions ſterling, in gold and ſilver, has been imported into Europe from America ſince its firſt diſcovery. And I am rather of opinion that this calculation is below the truth. Conſidered in this light, of what great importance was the diſcovery of America, and how it has enriched the world at large, and eſpecially Europe!

America has been, is now, and will continue to be, of vaſt importance to the world in general, and to Europe in particular, in a commercial point of view. The commerce of America is aſtoniſhing, and conſtantly enriches Europe, and will continue and greatly encreaſe. From America are imported vaſt quantities of raw materials of great conſequence to the manufacturers of Europe; from thence are brought moſt of the luxuries, and many of the neceſſaries, of life. All theſe are paid for in the manufactured

nufactured goods of Europe, &c. beſides a vaſt balance of trade in favour of Europe, which is paid in bullion or ſpecie. America is ſufficient, if properly peopled and cultivated, to ſupply all Europe with proviſions, and may be ſuch a reſource in time of ſcarcity and diſtreſs, as will prove highly beneficial to the inhabitants of the old world.

Conſidered in all theſe and many other points of light, the diſcovery of America has been, and will continue to be, of vaſt importance to mankind.

But above all, I conſider the diſcovery of America as of the greateſt importance to mankind, as it has pleaſed God to diſtinguiſh it from all other countries, in cauſing it to be the firſt place upon the globe where equal, civil, and religious liberty has been eſtabliſhed.

If my ſtyling America, in the beginning of this diſcourſe, *the very birth place of civil and religious liberty*, ſhould be looked upon as too bold a figure of ſpeech, yet I truſt none will refuſe to allow it to be the very firſt country where true equal, civil, and religious liberty has been *eſtabliſhed*.

The United States of America, have the happineſs of teaching the world the following, grand, and important leſſons.

1. That it is poſſible for a large and extenſive country to be ruled by a republican form of government, without monarchy or ariſtocracy.

2. That

2. That religious worſhip may be well ſupported without any legal eſtabliſhment; and that, to allow all to think freely for themſelves in matters of religion, and worſhip God according to the dictates of their own conſciences, is the beſt policy.

3. That to place all denominations upon an exact equal footing, is the ready way to deſtroy all animoſity and ſtrife, all bigottry, perſecution and intolerance, and tends effectually to promote peace, harmony, and good will, in the community.

4. That church and ſtate may both ſubſiſt and flouriſh without being allied together; Chriſt's kingdom is not of this world; and if all the kingdoms and governments of the earth were overturned, the church would ſtill remain, for it can never be deſtroyed. And it is certain that political government may exiſt without any ſupport from the church. The idea that Church and State muſt be married together, in order to exiſt, and that, if one falls, the other muſt come down, is falſe and abſurd to the laſt degree.

5. That changing the puniſhment of death for hard labour and confinement, tends to prevent crimes, far more than the penal code of laws, which inflicts death as the puniſhment of almoſt every offence.

6. That the more mild and equitable government

is,

is, the more happy and contented the people will be, and that ſuch a government, far from being weaker and more inefficacious than arbitrary governments, is really far ſtronger, and is not in ſo much danger of being overturned.

7. America has alſo ſhewn the world, that to admit the Jews to all the privileges of natural born ſubjects, is far from being a dangerous experiment, as has been generally ſuppoſed. I cannot ſee that allowing them ſuch privileges deſtroys one prophecy, or will in the leaſt hinder their return to their own land, when the time ſhall come. And I am far from being afraid, that God will be angry with the United States for giving to Jews, in common with other nations, the equal bleſſings of protection, liberty, property, &c. I find threatenings in Scripture againſt thoſe nations that have afflicted the Jews, but none againſt thoſe who afford them reſt and peace. And I am happy in being able to ſay, that the government of the United States has never been guilty of oppreſſing that deſpiſed nation, but on the contrary, invites all (who chooſe to reſide in that country) to a full and equal participation of all the bleſſings and privileges which they themſelves enjoy.

Theſe are a few of the important leſſons which the United States of America have the honour and hap-

happineſs of teaching the world at large, both by precept and practice. And I hope the time is not far diſtant, when all the world ſhall learn and practiſe theſe leſſons in a ſtill more perfect manner than they are yet practiſed in America itſelf.

The meſſage which the Lord ſent by St. John the Divine, to the Church of Philadelphia in Aſia, has been, and will be, remarkably fulfilled in Philadelphia in America; "Behold I have ſet before thee an open door, and no man can ſhut it." This is the door of civil and religious liberty, which begun to be opened in Philadelphia, in North America; and no man has been able hitherto, or ever ſhall be able, to ſhut it; and it will ſpread throughout the world.

Thus it is plain, that the diſcovery of America was not only a great event in itſelf, but has been of great conſequence to the world of mankind in general, and to Europe in particular.

But the importance of the diſcovery will appear greater and greater every year; and one century to come will improve America far more than the three centuries paſt.

The proſpect opens, it extends itſelf upon us; "The wilderneſs and ſolitary place ſhall rejoice, the deſart ſhall rejoice and bloſſom as the roſe." I look forward to that glorious æra, when that vaſt continent ſhall be fully populated with civilized and religious people; when heavenly wiſdom and virtue, and

all

all that can civilize, adorn, and bleſs, the children of men, ſhall cover that part of the globe, as the waters cover the ſeas!

Tranſported at the thought, I am borne forward to days of diſtant renown! In my expanded view, the United States riſe in all their ripened glory before me. I look through and beyond every yet peopled region of the New World, and behold period ſtill brightening upon period. Where one contiguous depth of gloomy wilderneſs now ſhuts out even the beams of day, I ſee new ſtates and empires, new ſeats of wiſdom and knowledge, new religious domes, ſpreading around. In places now untrod by any but ſavage beaſts, or men as ſavage as they, I hear the voice of happy labour, and behold beautiful cities riſing to view!

Lo, in this happy picture, I behold the native Indian exulting in the works of peace and civilization! his bloody hatchet he buries deep under ground, and his murderous knife he turns into a pruning hook,—to lop the tender vine, and teach the luxuriant ſhoot to grow. No more does he form to himſelf a heaven after death (according to the poet) in company with his faithful dog, behind the cloud-topt hill, to enjoy ſolitary quiet, far from the haunts of faithleſs men; but, better inſtructed by Chriſtianity, he views his everlaſting inheritance,—"a houſe not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

Inſtead

Inſtead of recounting to his offspring round the blazing fire, the bloody exploits of their anceſtors, and wars of ſavage death, ſhewing barbarous exultation over every deed of human woe, methinks I hear him pouring forth his eulogies of praiſe, in memory of thoſe who were the inſtruments of Heaven, in raiſing his tribes from darkneſs to light; in giving them the bleſſings of civilized life, and converting them from violence and blood, to meekneſs and love.

Behold the whole continent highly cultivated and fertilized, full of cities, towns and villages, beautiful and lovely beyond expreſſion. I hear the praiſes of my great Creator ſung upon the banks of thoſe rivers unknown to ſong. Behold the delightful proſpect! ſee the ſilver and gold of America employed in the ſervice of the Lord of the whole earth! See Slavery, with all it's train of attendant evils, for ever aboliſhed! See a communication opened through the whole continent, from North to South, and from Eaſt to Weſt, through a moſt fruitful country! Behold the glory of God extending, and the goſpel ſpreading, through the whole land!

O, my native country! though I am ſo diſtant from thy peaceful ſhores, which probably my eyes may never more behold! yet I can never forget thee. May thy great Creator bleſs thee, and make thee a happy land, while thy rivers flow and thy mountains endure! And, though he has ſpoken

nothing

nothing plainly in his word concerning thee, yet has he bleſt thee abundantly, and given thee good things in poſſeſſion, and a proſpect of more glorious things in time to come. His name ſhall be known, feared, and loved, through all thy weſtern regions, and to the utmoſt bounds of thy vaſt extenſive continent.

O, America! land of liberty, peace, and plenty! in thee I drew my firſt breath, in thee all my kindred dwell. I beheld thee in thy loweſt ſtate cruſhed down under misfortunes, ſtruggling with poverty, war, and diſgrace; I have lived to behold thee free and independent, riſing to glory and extenſive empire; bleſſed with all the good things of this life, and a happy proſpect of better things to come. I can ſay, "Lord, now letteſt thou thy ſervant depart in peace, for mine eyes have ſeen thy ſalvation," which thou haſt made known to my native land, in the ſight, and to the aſtoniſhment, of all the nations of the earth.

I die; but God will ſurely viſit America, and make it a vaſt flouriſhing and extenſive empire; will take it under his protection, and bleſs it abundantly—but the proſpect is too glorious for my pen to deſcribe. I add no more.

SOME

SOME

POLITICAL HYMNS

FOR

AMERICA:

COMPOSED DURING THE TIME OF

THE LATE WAR.

HYMN I.

American Freedom and Independence agreeable to the Voice of Nature.

1 BEHOLD, the voice of nature cries,
'America is free!'
The eagle, ſoaring to the ſkies,
Confirms the ſame to me.

2 This ſtately bird her young doth bear,
And, mounting up on high,
Aloft incumbent on the air,
She teaches them to fly.

3 No longer they on her depend,
When they can fly for food;
Forth independent ſhe doth ſend
Her young and tender brood.

4 Young lions, wand'ring from the den,
Do independence preach:
Shall beasts be wiser far than men,
And us our Freedom teach?
5 When lions once can hunt for prey,
And round the foreſt roam,
The voice of nature they obey,
And ſeek themſelves a home.
6 All birds and beaſts of ev'ry kind
Do make their young ones free;
In independence we may find
The voice of all agree.
7 When ſons arrive at proper age,
Though no contentions riſe,
They're independent on the ſtage,
Before their parents' eyes.
8 Their parents, far from giving blame,
Their conduct do approve;
And help them forward in the ſame,
And ſtill abide in love.
9 Good parents love to ſee their heirs
To independence grow;
And never lay their traps and ſnares
To keep their children low.
10 But ſhould ſuch cruel men be found,
To hold their ſons by might,
The children have ſufficient ground
To vindicate their right.

11 The voice of birds, and beaſts, and men,
Prove Independence plain:
Since this is clear, it follows then,
Objections are in vain.

HYMN II.

An earneſt Prayer for America's Freedom and Happineſs.

1 LET tyranny attempt no more
To ſubjugate America,
And baniſh freedom from our ſhore,
And take our liberties away.

2 All plans of ſlavery we hate,
Full fraught with ev'ry murd'rous ill,
They ruin ev'ry happy ſtate,
And all the ſeeds of virtue kill.

3 Lord, ſave our land from tyrant's rage;
Let not our foes obtain their joy:
Behold, O Lord! how they engage
Our rights and freedom to deſtroy!

4 We're free, by nature's rightful laws;
Let us not wear oppreſſion's chain:
Freedom from ſlav'ry's iron claws,
Is what we pray may ſtill remain.

5 The goſpel ſets our ſpirits free;
In chriſtian freedom may we ſtand;
And grant, O Lord! we may not ſee
Tyrannic bondage in our land.

6 Save us from ev'ry cruel plot,
Defeat our foes in their deſign;
And this ſhall never be forgot,
But all the glory ſhall be thine.
7 Oh may we never be enſlav'd,
And loſe our portion—Liberty!
And may America be ſav'd
From bondage, thrall, and tyranny.

HYMN III.

America encouraged to truſt in God.

1 LET tyrants ſhake their iron rod,
And ſlav'ry clank her galling chains;
We fear them not, we truſt in God,
Our God alone for ever reigns.
2 Seas, winds and ſtorms, earth, ſtars and ſkies,
Directed by his wiſdom, fight;
All join againſt his enemies,
Who dare to triumph in his ſight.
3 Should all their pow'rs together join
To fight, and ſlay, with ſword in hand,
Supported by an arm divine,
In ſpite of all their rage, we ſtand.

4 Let not the mighty triumph then,
And riſe in arms againſt our God;
He'll make them know—they are but men,
If they provoke his dreadful rod.
5 We'll truſt in him, whoſe pow'r alone
Can ſave us from the hurtful ſword;
He'll ſend deliv'rance from his throne,
And we ſhall know that He's our Lord.

HYMN IV.

The Help of God diſplayed when moſt needed.

1 THE Lord of Hoſts diſplays his pow'r
When moſt his people need his aid;
Though foes are ſeeking to devour,
Yet let us never be afraid.
2 Though warriors proud may make their boaſts
What they have done, and what they'll do,
The mighty Lord, the God of hoſts,
Can help by many, or by few.
3 The feebleſt bands who truſt in God,
Againſt their foes ſhall ſoon prevail;
They need not fear th' oppreſſor's rod,
For all the ſtrength of man ſhall fail.
4 Though ſhips of thunder and of fire
Come to diſtreſs our peaceful coaſts,
The Lord can ſend his wrathful ire,
Their fleets deſtroy, and ſlay their hoſts.

5 Who can the great Supreme oppoſe?
Or, who can ſtay his mighty hand?
His vengeance will amaze his foes!
And who is able to withſtand?
6 Should God, the dreadful Judge, appear,
Array'd in terror, cloth'd in fire,
His enemies would quake with fear,
And, at his awful frown, expire.
7 JEHOVAH makes the feeble ſtrong,
He ſaves them from their foes and fears;
Let us prepare a joyful ſong,
To him who for our help appears.
8 Truſt in the name of God alone,
Our foes ſhall bow before our feet;
We ſoon ſhall ſing—'The day's our own,'
And ſee the victory all complete.

HYMN V.

A Song of Praiſe to God for his Goodneſs to America.

1 REJOICE in the Lord, our Saviour and king!
His ſceptre, and ſword, his goodneſs, we ſing;
To him all thankſgiving and honour be paid;
By all creatures living, let him be obey'd.
2 JEHOVAH, who fills eternity's ſpace,
Saw from his bright hills the whole human race,

And

And ever creation or time had a birth
Beheld where each nation ſhould people the earth.

3 He ſaw, from his throne, America's land,
And call'd it his own, 'ere made by his hand;
He will'd to poſſeſs it 'ere time had begun,
Determin'd to bleſs it when ages had run.

4 The Lord did rejoice, from ages unknown,
In men by his choice here planted alone;
From nations divided, from tyranny free,
By providence guided to full liberty.

5 Now God has begun his favour to ſhew,
The works he has done ſhew what he can do:
His goſpel is ſounding, and none can moleſt,
His grace is abounding from Eaſt unto Weſt.

6 Come let us then raiſe a new noble ſong,
All honour and praiſe to God do belong;
Join then your glad voices, his goodneſs proclaim,
Our nation rejoices, let us do the ſame.

HYMN VI.

America called to rejoice, in the Proſpect of Deliverance.

1 REJOICE, America, rejoice,
In God your ſov'reign king!
Liſt up your hearts, lift up your voice,
His glorious praiſe to ſing.

2 Your foes with open mouths did ſeek,
Your freedom to devour;
But oh! the ſtrength of man how weak,
Againſt Almighty pow'r!

3 In vain united hoſts combine,
Againſt your favour'd land;
Who fight againſt an arm divine,
Shall know, and dread, his hand.

4 The Lord hath made their counſels void,
In ſpite of all their ſkill;
And diſappointed and deſtroy'd,
The men that ſought our ill.

5 JEHOVAH lifted up a ſhield,
For thoſe who fear'd his name;
And made our foes to quit the field,
And turn'd them back with ſhame.

6 Let tyranny no more pretend,
To bind us in its chains;
The God who has appear'd our friend
Our freedom ſtill maintains.

7 What ſhall we render to the Lord,
For all his works of might?
Come let us all with one accord,
To ſing his praiſe unite.

8 We'll join our Maker to adore,
To whom all pow'r belongs;
Now, henceforth, and for evermore,
To him we'll raiſe our ſongs.

HYMN VII.

The Happineſs of a free Government.

1 BEHOLD, with joy, the peaceful ſtate,
Of people where the Lord doth reign;
Whoſe wiſdom, power, and goodneſs great,
All join their freedom to maintain.

2 Happy the land whoſe rulers are,
The people's choice, and their's alone;
For ſuch will take the greateſt care,
To make the people's cauſe their own.

3 Thoſe men who govern by the pow'r
With which the people them inveſt,
Their liberties can ne'er devour;
And hence ſuch government is beſt.

4 Hail happy place where freedom ſtands,
And liberty erects its throne!
Where thrall, and ſlav'ry's cruel bands,
And tyranny, are never known!

5 Where peace, good will, and love abound,
And perſecution cannot dwell,
A land with joy and plenty crown'd,
Muſt ſure in happineſs excel.

6 Where none each other's peace annoys,
Where conſcience never is oppreſs'd,
Each man free liberty enjoys;
This is the land which God hath bleſs'd.

7 In this free ſtate we would rejoice,
And dwell for ever more in peace;
And praiſe our God with cheerful voice,
Who makes our thrall and bondage ceaſe.

HYMN VIII.

A Thanſgiving Hymn for the United States of America, containing a retroſpective View of the Goodneſs of God towards them, from the firſt Settlement of the Country until the preſent Time.

1 GIVE thanks to God, your king,
And ſpeak his worthy fame:
Your higheſt honours bring,
To his Almighty name;
For God hath made his MERCIES known;
And call'd AMERICA his own.

2 Record the wonders wrought,
By his victorious hand,
Which hath deliv'rance brought,
To our diſtreſſed land;
For God hath made his WONDERS known;
And call'd this WESTERN LAND his own.

3 He brought our fathers o'er,
The great atlantic ſea,
To this delightful ſhore,
The land of liberty;

For

For God hath made his GOODNESS known;
And call'd COLUMBIA his own.

4 He drove the heathen out,
Before his people's face;
Put savage bands to rout,
And gave to us their place;
For God hath made his JUDGMENTS known;
And call'd this NEW FOUND LAND his own.

5 He made us to poſſeſs,
A country long conceal'd;
And turn'd the wilderneſs,
Into a fruitful field;
For God hath made his KINDNESS known;
And call'd this INFANT-LAND his own.

6 He made us to increaſe,
In numbers, wealth, and ſtrength;
And gave a ſettled peace,
Unto the land at length;
For God hath made his POWER known;
And call'd this FRUITFUL LAND his own.

7 His goſpel forth he ſent,
To teach the way to heav'n;
His pow'r attending went,
To ſhew our ſins forgiv'n:
For God hath made SALVATION known;
And call'd the SOULS OF MEN his own.

8 Long

8 Long time our land enjoy'd
Peace, plenty, health, and gain;
And when we were annoy'd,
The Lord did us ſuſtain;
For God hath made DELIV'RANCE known;
And call'd the FEEBLE FLOCK his own.

9 When pow'rful foes oppreſt
Us round on ev'ry ſide,
The Lord this people bleſt,
With ſkilful men to guide;
For God hath made his WISDOM known;
And call'd theſe riſing STATES his own.

10 Our foes our ruin ſought,
Which they could not obtain;
By providence they're taught,
That pride of man is vain;
For God hath made his JUSTICE known;
And call'd the RIGHTEOUS CAUSE his own.

11 God made the feeble ſtand,
Againſt their boaſted pow'r;
And gave them not our land,
To ſpoil and to devour;
For God hath made PROTECTION known;
And call'd FAIR FREEDOM'S LAND his own.

12 JEHOVAH peace ordains,
The noiſe of battle's o'er,
No blood the veſture ſtains,
Nor thund'ring cannons roar;

For

For God hath made his GLORY known;
And call'd the favour'd STATES his own.
13 Now let our land enjoy,
Peace, plenty, liberty;
Let war no more annoy,
Amen; ſo let it be.
Lord, make thy LOVING FAVOUR known,
And call this CONTINENT thine own.

HYMN IX.

America's future Glory and Happineſs.

1 COME riſe, my ſoul, to nobler things,
And trace our future ſtate;
And joyful ſtretch thy fancy's wings,
And look for glory great.
2 Behold our weſtern world emerge,
And far outſhine the moon!
No longer ſunk, it will enlarge,
And riſe in glory ſoon.
3 See the bright morn of light appear,
As day breaks from the ſkies;
Our woes are gone, and ev'ry tear,
Is vaniſh'd from our eyes.
4 Fair liberty exalts her plumes
And freedom takes the throne;
Juſtice the ſeat of pow'r aſſumes,
And thrall no more is known.

5 Truth

5 Truth lifts its ſtandard in the field,
And righteouſneſs doth ſpring:
Ten thouſand ſouls to Jeſus yield,
And own him for their king.
6 Religion riſes with its charms,
And ſcatters glories round;
Vaſt numbers flock to mercy's arms,
Where pardons may be found.
7 Religious tyranny no more
The land with bondage fills;
But freedom ſounds from ſhore to ſhore,
And echo's from the hills.
8 The warlike ſounds of battle ceaſe,
And ſwords no more deſtroy;
The glorious olive branch of peace,
Fills ev'ry heart with joy.
9 The fields where human blood was ſhed,
Are cloth'd with growing corn;
And pleaſant green, inſtead of red,
Doth hills and plains adorn.
10 The deſert wild becomes a field,
And bloſſoms like a roſe;
The barren land doth plenty yield,
And living water flows.
11 No more the lab'rer pines and grieves,
For want of plenty round;
His eyes behold the fruitful ſheaves,
By which his labour's crown'd.

12 No more Chriſt's miniſters complain,
And mourn with weeping eyes,
No longer ſpend their ſtrength in vain,
For num'rous converts riſe.

13 See flocking ſouls on Jeſus wait,
And run to hear his word;
Behold them ſtand before his gate,
And own him for their Lord.

14 Chriſt's watchmen now ſee eye to eye,
And ſaints join heart and hand;
'Free grace, free grace,' is all the cry,
Throughout this happy land.

15 This is the glory of our main;
And thus America
Will flouriſh under Jeſu's reign.
Amen, amen, I ſay.

EX-

EXPLANATION
of the
PLATE.

A——North Capitol Street
B——South Capitol Street
C——New Jerſey Street
D——Delaware Street
E——Maryland Street
F——Eaſt Capitol Street
G——Pennſylvania Street
H——New Hampſhire Street
I——Vermont Street
K——Rhode Iſland Street
L——New York Street
M——Kentuckey Street
N——Virginia Street
O——Georgia Street
P——Maſſachuſetts Street
Q——North Carolina Street
R——South Carolina Street
T——The Road leading to Alexandria
U——The Road from the Canal at the lower falls, diſtant $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles
W——The Mouth of Tiber Creek
X——The Stone Bridge, ſuperior to any thing elſe of the kind in America
Y——The grand Avenue 2950 yards in length; and, with the gardens included, 495 yards in width.

DES-

PLAN
of the City of
WASHINGTON
George
Town
Virginia
POTOMAK RIVER
EASTERN BRANCH
Maryland
Lat. Capital 38.53 N
Long. 0.0

DESCRIPTION

of the

CITY OF WASHINGTON,

in the Territory of

COLUMBIA;

CEDED BY THE STATES OF VIRGINIA AND MARYLAND TO THE UNITED STATES, AND BY THEM ESTABLISHED AS THE SEAT OF THEIR GOVERNMENT, AFTER THE YEAR 1800.

THE city of Washington ſtands at the junction of the rivers Pawtomack and the Eaſtern-branch, extending nearly four miles up each, and including a tract of territory, exceeded, in point of convenience, ſalubrity, and beauty, by none in America. For although the land in general appears level, yet, by gentle and gradual ſwellings, a variety of elegant proſpects are produced, and a ſufficient deſcent formed for conveying off the water occaſioned by rain. Within the limits of the city are a great number of excellent ſprings; and, by digging wells, water of the beſt quality may readily be had. Beſides, the never-failing ſtreams that now run through that territory, may alſo be collected for the uſe of the city. The wa-

ters of Reedybranch and of Tiber-creek, may be conveyed to the Preſident's houſe. The ſource of Tiber-creek is elevated about 236 feet above the level of the tide in ſaid creek. The perpendicular height of the ground on which the Capitol is to ſtand, is 78 feet above the level of the tide in Tiber-creek. The water of Tiber-creek may, therefore, be conveyed to the Capitol, and, after watering that part of the city, may be deſtined to other uſeful purpoſes.

The Eaſtern-branch is one of the ſafeſt and moſt commodious harbours in America, being ſufficiently deep for the largeſt ſhips, for about four miles above it's mouth, while the channel lies cloſe along the bank adjoining the city, and affords a large and convenient harbour. The Pawtomack, although only navigable for ſmall craft, for a conſiderable diſtance from it's banks, next to the city, (excepting about a mile above the junction of the rivers) will, nevertheleſs afford a capacious ſummer harbour; as an immenſe number of ſhips may ride in the great channel oppoſite to, and below, the city.

The ſituation of this Metropolis is upon the great poſt-road, equi-diſtant from the northern and ſouthern extremities of the Union, and nearly ſo from the Atlantick and Pittſburgh, upon the beſt navigation, and in the midſt of a commercial territory; probably the richeſt, and commanding the moſt extenſive,

extenſive, internal reſources of any in America. It has, therefore, many advantages to recommend it, as an eligible place for the permanent ſeat of the general government; and, as it is likely to be ſpeedily built, and otherwiſe improved, by the public-ſpirited enterprize of the people of the United States, and even by foreigners, it may be expected to grow up with a degree of rapidity hitherto unparalleled in the annals of cities.

The plan of this city appears to contain ſome important improvements upon that of the beſt planned cities in the world, combining, in a remarkable degree, convenience, regularity, elegance of proſpect, and a free circulation of air.—The poſitions for the different public edifices, and for the ſeveral ſquares and areas of different ſhapes, as they are laid down, were firſt determined on the moſt advantageous ground, commanding the moſt extenſive proſpects; and, from their ſituation, ſuſceptible of ſuch improvements as either uſe or ornament may hereafter require. The Capitol will be ſituated on a moſt beautiful eminence, commanding a complete view of every part of the city, and of a conſiderable part of the country around. The Preſident's houſe will ſtand on a riſing ground, poſſeſſing a delightful water proſpect, together with a commanding view of the Capitol, and the moſt material parts of the city. Lines, or avenues, of direct communication, have

been deviſed, to connect the moſt diſtant and important objects. Theſe tranſverſe avenues, or diagonal ſtreets, are laid out on the moſt advantageous ground for proſpect or convenience, and are calculated not only to produce a variety of charming proſpects, but greatly to facilitate the communication throughout the city.—North and ſouth lines, interſected by others running due eaſt and weſt, make the diſtribution of the city into ſtreets, ſquares, &c. and thoſe lines have been ſo combined as to meet, at certain given points, with the divergent avenues, ſo as to form, on the ſpaces *firſt determined*, the different ſquares or areas.—The grand avenues, and ſuch ſtreets as lead immediately to public places, are from 130 to 160 feet wide, and may be conveniently divided into foot-ways, a walk planted with trees on each ſide, and a paved way for carriages. The other ſtreets are from 90 to 110 feet wide.

In order to execute this plan, Mr. Ellicott drew a true meridional plan, by celeſtial obſervation, which paſſes through the area intended for the Capitol. This line he croſſed by another, running due eaſt and weſt, which paſſes through the ſame area. Theſe lines were accurately meaſured, and made the baſes on which the whole plan was executed. He ran all the lines by a tranſit inſtrument, and determined the acute angles by actual meaſurement, leaving nothing to the uncertainty of the compaſs.

A P-

APPENDIX.

FARTHER PARTICULARS RESPECTING COLUMBUS.

AFTER Columbus had diſcovered the iſlands, on his return home, he was overtaken with a ſtorm which had nearly proved fatal to his ſhips and their crews. At a criſis when all was given up for loſt, Columbus had preſence of mind enough to retire into his cabin, and to write, upon parchment, a ſhort account of his voyage. This he wrapped in an oiled cloth, which he incloſed in a cake of wax, put it into a tight caſk, and threw it into the ſea, in hopes that ſome fortunate accident might preſerve a depoſit of ſo much importance to the world. He arrived at Palos, in Spain, whence he had ſailed the year before, on the 15th of March, 1493. He was welcomed with all the acclamations which the populace are ever ready to beſtow

on great and glorious characters; and the court received him with marks of the greateſt reſpect.

In September of this year, 1493, Columbus ſailed upon his ſecond voyage to America; during the performance of which, he diſcovered the iſlands of Dominica, Marigalante, Guadeloupe, Montſerrat, Antigua, Porto Rico, and Jamaica; and returned to Spain in 1496.

In this voyage, he was driven on the iſland of Jamaica, where he was in the greateſt diſtreſs for want of proviſions, and was moreover refuſed any aſſiſtance from the inhabitants; on which, he threatened them with a plague; and told them, that, in token of it, there would be an eclipſe on ſuch a day; and, which taking place accordingly on the day that he had foretold, ſo terrified the barbarians, that they ſtrove who ſhould be firſt in bringing him all ſorts of proviſions, throwing them at his feet, and imploring his forgiveneſs.

This anecdote ſhews that he had knowledge of aſtronomy, poſſeſſed great preſence of mind, underſtood well the diſpoſitions of the ſavages, and, above all, that he was under the ſpecial protection of Providence.

In 1498, he ſailed a third time for America; and on the firſt of Auguſt, diſcovered the CONTINENT. He then coaſted along weſtward, making other diſcoveries, for 200 leagues, to Cape Vela, from which he croſſed over to Hiſpaniola, where he

he was ſeized by a new Spaniſh Governor, and ſent home in chains. This was a barbarous and cruel action; and, if he did this by order of the court of Spain, it was a baſe return indeed for the moſt important ſervices, and tended much to diſcourage the ſpirit of adventure. I have heard that Columbus, by his will, ordered the chains in which he was ſent home, to be buried with him, but, for what reaſon, I am not able to ſay. It is however evident that he was not long kept in chains after he returned home; for, in the year 1502, we find that he made his fourth, and probably his laſt, voyage to Hiſpaniola; from thence he went over to the Continent,—diſcovered the bay of Honduras; thence ſailed along the main ſhore eaſterly 200 leagues, to Cape Gracios à Dios, Veragua, Porto Bello, and the Gulph of Darien.

The jealous and avaricious Spaniards, not immediately receiving thoſe golden advantages which they had promiſed themſelves, and, loſt to the feelings of humanity and gratitude, ſuffered their eſteem and admiration of Columbus to degenerate into ignoble envy. Hence aroſe thoſe neglects and vexations which he endured in the latter part of his life. But the court of Spain were ſo juſt to his memory, after his death, notwithſtanding their ingratitude towards him during his life, that they buried him magnificently in the cathedral

cathedral of Seville, and erected a tomb over him with this inscription;

"COLUMBUS
HAS GIVEN
A NEW WORLD
TO THE KINGDOMS OF
CASTILE AND LEON."

SHORT SKETCH
OF THE
LIFE AND CHARACTER
OF
GENERAL WASHINGTON.

I HAVE heard perſons in England confidently aſſert, that General Waſhington was born in this country; but I know to the contrary, as I have ſeveral times, in my journies through America, paſſed through the county where he was born, as well as that where his manſion is; and am acquainted with thoſe who know his family and connexions. His anceſtors went from England to America as long ago as the year 1657. He is the third in deſcent after their migration; and was born February the 11th (old ſtile) 1732, in Weſtmoreland county, on the northern ſide of the river Rappahannock, in Virginia, within 50 miles of the ſpot where his ſeat is.

His

His father's family was numerous, and he was the first fruit of a second marriage. His education having been principally conducted by a private tutor, at fifteen years old, he was entered a midshipman on board a British vessel of war, stationed on the coast of Virginia, and his baggage prepared for imbarkation; but the plan was abandoned, on account of the reluctance his mother expressed to his engaging in that profession.

Previous to this transaction, when he was but ten years of age, his father died, and the care of the family devolved upon his eldest brother. His eldest brother, a young man of the most promising talents, had a command in the Colonial troops employed against Carthagena; and, on his return from the expedition, named his new patrimonial mansion 'MOUNT VERNON,' in honour of the Admiral of that name, from whom he had received many civilities. He was afterwards made Adjutant-general of the militia of Virginia, but did not long survive. At his decease, the eldest son by the second marriage inherited this seat, and a considerable landed property. In consequence of the extensive limits of the colony, the vacant office of Adjutant-general was divided into three districts, and the *future hero of America*, before he had attained his twentieth year, began his military service by a principal appointment in that department, with the rank of Major.

When he was but little more than twenty-one years of age, an event occurred which called his abilities into public notice. In 1753, while the government of the colony was adminiſtered by Lieutenant-governor Dinwiddie, encroachments were reported to have been made by the French, from Canada, on the territories of the Britiſh colonies at the weſtward. Young Mr. Waſhington, who was ſent with plenary powers, to aſcertain the fact, treat with the ſavages, and warn the French to deſiſt from their aggreſſions, performed the duties of his miſſion with ſingular induſtry, intelligence and addreſs. His journal and report to Governor Dinwiddie, which were publiſhed, announced to the world that correctneſs of mind, manlineſs in ſtile, and accuracy in the mode of doing buſineſs, which have ſince characteriſed him in the conduct of more arduous affairs. But it was deemed by ſome, an extraordinary circumſtance, that ſo juvenile and unexperienced a perſon ſhould be employed on a negotiation, with which ſubjects of the greateſt importance were involved; ſubjects, which ſhortly after, became the origin of a war between England and France, that raged for many years throughout every part of the globe.

As the troubles ſtill ſubſiſted on the frontiers, the colony of Virginia raiſed, the next year, a regiment of troops for their defence. Of this corps,

Mr.

Mr. Fry, one of the profeſſors of the college, was appointed Colonel, and Major Waſhington received the commiſſion of Lieutenant-colonel. But Colonel Fry died the ſame ſummer, without ever having joined; and, of courſe, left his regiment and rank to the ſecond in command. Colonel Waſhington made indefatigable efforts to form the regiment, eſtabliſh magazines, and open roads, ſo as to pre-occupy the advantageous poſt, at the confluence of the rivers Allegany and Monongahela, which he had recommended for that purpoſe, in his report the preceding year. He was to have been joined by a detachment of independent regulars from the ſouthern colonies, together with ſome companies of provincials from North Carolina and Maryland. But he perceived the neceſſity of expedition, and, without waiting for their arrival, commenced his march in the month of May. Notwithſtanding his precipitated advance, on his aſcending the Laurel-hill, fifty miles ſhort of his object, he was informed that a body of French had already taken poſſeſſion, and erected a fortification, which they named, *Fort du Queſne*. He then fell back to a place called, *The great Meadows*, for the ſake of forage and ſupplies. Here he built a temporary ſtockade, merely to cover his ſtores; it was from its fate called, *Fort Neceſſity*. His force, when joined by Capt. M'Kay's regulars, did not amount to four hundred effectives. Upon receiving information

mation from his ſcouts, that a conſiderable party was approaching to reconnoitre his poſt, he ſallied and defeated them. But in return he was attacked by an army computed to have been more than fifteen hundred ſtrong, and after a gallant defence, in which more than one third of his men were killed and wounded, was forced to capitulate. The garriſon marched out with the honours of war, but were plundered by the Indians, in violation of the articles of capitulation. After this diſaſter, the remains of the Virginia regiment returned to Alexandria, to be recruited and furniſhed with neceſſary ſupplies.

In the year 1755, the Britiſh Government ſent General Braddock to America, who, by the junction of two veteran regiments from Ireland, with the independent and provincial corps in America, was to repel the French from the confines of the Engliſh ſettlements. Upon a royal arrangement of rank, by which "no officer who did not *immediately* derive his commiſſion from the King, could command one who did." Col. Waſhington relinguiſhed his regiment, and went as an extra Aid-de camp into the family of General Braddock. In this capacity, at the battle of Monongahela, he attended that General, whoſe life was ſacrificed in attempting to extricate his troops out of the fatal ambuſcade, into which his over-weening confidence had conducted them. Braddock had ſeveral horſes ſhot under him before he fell himſelf; and there

was

was not an officer whose duty obliged him to be on horſeback that day, excepting Colonel Waſhington, who was not either killed or wounded. This circumſtance enabled him to diſplay greater abilities in covering the retreat, and ſaving the wreck of the army, than he could otherwiſe have done. As ſoon as he had ſecured their paſſage over the ford of the Monongahela, and found they were not purſued, he haſtened to concert meaſures for their farther ſecurity with Colonel Dunbar, who had remained with the ſecond diviſion and heavy baggage at ſome diſtance in the rear. To effect this, he travelled with two guides all night, through an almoſt impervious wilderneſs, notwithſtanding the fatigues he had undergone in the day, and notwithſtanding he had ſo imperfectly recovered from ſickneſs that he was obliged in the morning to be ſupported with cuſhions on his horſe. The public accounts in England and America were not parſimonious of applauſe for the eſſential ſervice he had rendered on ſo trying an occaſion.

Not long after this time, the regulation of rank, which had been ſo injurious to the colonial officers, was changed to their ſatisfaction, in conſequence of the diſcontent of the officers, and the remonſtrance of Colonel Waſhington; and the ſupreme authority of Virginia, impreſſed with a due ſenſe of his merits, gave him, in a new and extenſive commiſſion, the command of all the troops raiſed, and to be raiſed, in that colony.

It

It would not comport with the intended brevity of this ſketch, to mention in details the plans he ſuggeſted, or the ſyſtem he purſued, for defending the frontiers, till the year 1758, when he commanded the van brigade of General Forbes's army in the capture of Fort du Queſne. A ſimilar reaſon will preclude the recital of the perſonal hazards and achievements which happened in the courſe of his ſervice. The tranquillity on the frontiers of the middle colonies having been reſtored by the ſucceſs of this campaign, and the health of Colonel Waſhington having become extremely debilitated by an inveterate pulmonary complaint, in 1759, he reſigned his military appointment. Authentic documents are not wanting to ſhew the tender regret which the Virginia line expreſſed at parting with their commander, and the affectionate regard which he entertained for them.

His health was gradually re-eſtabliſhed. He married Mrs. Cuſtis, a handſome and amiable young widow, born the ſame year as himſelf, and poſſeſſed of an ample jointure. He then ſettled, as a planter and farmer, on the eſtate at Mount Vernon, Fairfax county, where his ſeat now is. After ſome years he gave up the planting of tobacco, (which is exceeding hurtful to the ſoil, and very ſlavith to the hands employed) and went altogether into the farming buſineſs. He has raiſed ſeven thouſand buſhels of wheat, and ten thouſand of Indian corn,

or

of maize, in one year. I copy this as I find it in ſeveral accounts; but I ſhould ſuppoſe that he commonly raiſes much more upon ſuch an excellent tract of land as he has upon the river Pawtomack; for a friend of mine in South Carolina told me, that the year his father died, was there raiſed on his plantation upon the river Pee Dee, twenty-five thouſand buſhels of Indian corn, beſides a very conſiderable quantity of Indigo, and a thouſand head of ſwine, &c.

Although the General has confined his own cultivation to this domeſtic tract of about nine thouſand acres, yet he poſſeſſes excellent lands in large quantities in ſeveral other counties. His judgment in the qualities of ſoils, his command of money to avail himſelf of purchaſes, and his occaſional employment in early life, as a ſurveyor, gave him opportunities of making advantageous locations, many of which are much improved.

After he left the army, until the year 1775, he thus cultivated the arts of peace. He was conſtantly a member of aſſembly, a magiſtrate of his county, and a judge of the court. He was elected a delegate to the firſt Congreſs in September 1774, as well as to that which aſſembled in the year following. Soon after the war broke out, he was appointed by Congreſs, Commander in Chief of the forces of the United Colonies. He was unanimouſly choſen as the fitteſt perſon on the Continent for that arduous

ous and difficult poſt. He was very unwilling to accept it, and when he did, he deſired that Congreſs might be informed that he would never receive any kind of compenſation for his ſervices, except barely the expences of his table. To which reſolution he ever afterwards religiouſly adhered.

It is the leſs neceſſary to particularize, in this place, his tranſactions in the courſe of the late war, becauſe the impreſſion which they made is ſtill freſh in the minds of the people. But it is hoped poſterity will be taught in what manner he transformed an undiſciplined body of men into a regular army of ſoldiers. Commentaries on his campaigns would undoubtedly be highly intereſting and inſtructive to future generations.

The conduct of the firſt campaign, in compelling the enemy to abandon Boſton by a bloodleſs victory, will merit a minute narration: but a volume would ſcarcely contain the mortifications which he experienced, and the hazards to which he was expoſed, in 1776 and 1777, in contending againſt the proweſs of Britain with an inferior force. His good deſtiny, and conſummate prudence, prevented want of ſucceſs from producing want of confidence on the part of the public; for want of ſucceſs is apt to lead to the adoption of pernicious counſels, through the levity of the people, or the ambition of their demagogues. Shortly after this period ſprang up the only cabal that ever exiſted during his public life,

to rob him of his reputation and command. It proved as impotent in effect, as it was audacious in design. In the three succeeding years, the germ of discipline unfolded; and the resources of America, having been called into co-operation with the land and naval armies of France, produced the victorious conclusion of the campaign of 1781. From this time the gloom began to disappear from the political horizon of America, and the affairs of the union proceeded in a meliorating train until a peace was ably negotiated by the American ambassadors in Europe, which took place in 1783, eight years from the commencement of hostilities.

No person who had not the advantage of being present when General Washington received the intelligence of peace, and who did not accompany him to his domestic retirement, can describe the relief which that joyful event brought to his labouring mind, or the supreme satisfaction with which he withdrew into private life. From his triumphant entry into New York, upon the evacuation of that city by the British army, to his arrival at Mount Vernon, after the resignation of his commission to Congress, festive crowds impeded his passage through all the populous towns; the devotion of a whole people pursued him with prayers to Heaven for blessings on his head, while their gratitude sought the most expressive language of manifesting itself to him as their common father and benefactor.

benefactor. When he became a private citizen, he had the unuſual felicity to find, that his native ſtate was among the moſt zealous in doing juſtice to his merits; and that ſtronger demonſtrations of affectionate eſteem (if poſſible) were given by the citizens of his neighbourhood, than by any other deſcription of men upon the continent. But he has conſtantly declined accepting any compenſation for his ſervices, or proviſion for the augmented expences which have been incurred by him in conſequence of his public employment, although propoſals have been made in the moſt delicate manner, particularly by the ſtates of Pennſylvania and Virginia.

The virtuous ſimplicity which diſtinguiſhes the private life of General Waſhington, though leſs known than the dazzling ſplendor of his military achievements, is not leſs edifying in example, or leſs worthy the attention of his countrymen. The conſpicuous character he has acted on the grand theatre of human affairs, the uniform dignity with which he ſuſtained his part, amidſt difficulties of the moſt diſcouraging nature, and the glory of having arrived through them at the hour of triumph, have made many official and literary characters, on both ſides of the ocean, ambitious of a correſpondence with him. Theſe correſpondencies unavoidably engroſs a great portion of his time; and the communications contained in them, combined with the numerous periodical publications and newſpapers

which he peruſes, render him as it were the *focus of political intelligence for the new world.* Nor are his converſations with well-informed men leſs conducive to bring him acquainted with the various events which happen in different countries of the globe. Every foreigner of diſtinction, who travels in America, makes it a point to viſit him. And while he reſided upon his plantation, members of Congreſs, and other dignified perſons, never paſſed his houſe without calling to pay their reſpects. As another ſource of information, it may be mentioned, that many literary productions are ſent to him annually, by their authors in Europe; and there is ſcarcely one work written in America on any art, ſcience, or ſubject, which does not ſeek his protection, or which is not offered to him as a token of gratitude. Mechanical inventions are frequently ſubmitted to him for his approbation, and natural curioſities preſented for his inveſtigation. But the multiplicity of epiſtolary applications, often on the remains of ſome buſineſs which happened when he was Commander in Chief, ſometimes on ſubjects foreign to his ſituation, frivolous in their nature, and intended merely to gratify the vanity of the writers, by drawing anſwers from him, is truly diſtreſſing, and almoſt incredible. His benignity in anſwering, perhaps increaſes the number. Did he not huſband every moment to the beſt advantage,

tage, it would not be in his power to notice the variety of ſubjects that claim his attention.

To apply a life, at beſt but ſhort, to the moſt uſeful purpoſes, he lives as he ever has done, in the unvarying habits of regularity, temperance, and induſtry.

He riſes, in winter as well as ſummer, at the dawn of day; and generally reads and writes ſome time before breakfaſt. When he is at his ſeat in Virginia, he breakfaſts at ſeven o'clock on three ſmall Indian hoe cakes, and as many diſhes of tea. Then he rides to his different farms, and remains with his labourers until a little paſt two o'clock, when he returns and dreſſes. At three he dines, commonly on a ſingle diſh, and drinks half a pint of Madeira wine. This, with one ſmall glaſs of punch, a draught of beer, and two diſhes of tea, which he takes early in the evening conſtitutes his whole ſuſtenance till the next day. Whether there be company or not, the table is always prepared, by its elegance and exuberance, for their reception; and the General remains at it for a hour after dinner, in familiar converſation and convivial hilarity. It is then that every one preſent is called upon to give ſome abſent friend as a toaſt; the name not unfrequently awakens a pleaſing remembrance of paſt events, and gives a new turn to the animated colloquy. General Waſhington has been rather more cheerful ſince the concluſion of the war than

while

while he was in the army. His temper is rather of a ſerious caſt, and his countenance commonly carries the impreſſion of thoughtfulneſs, yet he perfectly reliſhes a pleaſant ſtory, an unaffected ſally of wit, or a burleſque deſcription, which ſurpriſes by its ſuddenneſs and incongruity with the ordinary appearance of the object deſcribed. After this ſociable and innocent relaxation, he applies himſelf to buſineſs, and about nine o'clock retires to reſt. This is the rotine, and this the hour he obſerves, when no one but his family is preſent; at other times, he attends politely upon his company until they wiſh to withdraw.

He has never had any children of his own, but Mrs Waſhington had a ſon by her former huſband, and he died in the time of the war, and left two children, a ſon and a daughter, who live with their grandmother and will doubtleſs ſucceed, if they live, to a conſiderable part of the General's eſtate.

Agriculture is the favourite employment of General Waſhington, and in which he has made great improvements. To acquire and communicate practical knowledge, he correſponds with Mr. Arthur Young, who has written ſo ſenſibly upon the ſubject, and alſo with many agricultural gentlemen in America. As improvement is known to be his paſſion, he receives envoys from every quarter with rare ſeeds and reſults of new projects. He likewiſe makes copious notes, relative to his own experiments,

ments, the ſtate of the ſeaſons, the nature of ſoils, the effects of different kinds of manure, and ſuch other topics as may throw light on the farming buſineſs.

On Saturday in the afternoon, every week, reports are made by all his overſeers, and regiſtered in books kept for that purpoſe: ſo that at the end of the year, the quantity of labour and produce may be accurately known.

Order and œconomy are eſtabliſhed in all the departments within and without doors. His lands are encloſed in lots of equal dimenſions, and crops are aſſigned to each for many years. Every thing is undertaken on a large ſcale; but with a view to introduce or augment the culture of ſuch articles as he conceives will become moſt beneficial in their conſequence to the country. He raiſed, one year, two hundred lambs, ſowed twenty ſeven buſhels of flax ſeed, and planted more than ſeven hundred buſhels of potatoes. In the mean time the publick may reſt aſſured, that there is manufactured, under his roof, linen and woollen cloth, nearly or quite ſufficient for his numerous houſhold.

Thus he has long ſet an example to his countrymen worthy of their imitation, in diligence, temperance, frugality, and improvement in the noble and moſt uſeful ſcience of agriculture; which is now, and muſt be for ages to come, the great ſource of

of the riches and glory of the United States of America.

When the General reſigned his commiſſion to Congreſs, in 1783, and withdrew to a private life, he fully and firmly intended never more to engage in any publick employment whatever, civil, political, or military. But in the year 1787, the neceſſity of a more efficient plan of government became ſo evident, that a convention of the beſt, ableſt, and wiſeſt men in the States was appointed to meet in the city of Philadelphia, and to compoſe ſuch a form of government as ſhould appear moſt likely to anſwer the great purpoſes deſigned,—*the ſafety, honour, and happineſs* of the Union. But which form was nevertheleſs to be afterwards ſubmitted to the people at large, for their conſideration, diſcuſſion and approbation. General Waſhington was choſen one of the delegates for Virginia, and when the convention met, he was unanimouſly choſen Preſident of the ſame. The new Conſtitution may glory in having him for one of it's actual framers; for, he never did buſineſs by proxy, but always attended in perſon.

The Conſtitution was ſufficiently adopted in 1788, to begin it's execution; accordingly, the month of March, 1789, was the time appointed for the new legiſlative authority to commence. In the mean time, General Waſhington was according to the new Conſtitution, unanimouſly choſen Pre-

President of the United States. This drew him forth from his beloved retirement once more; he heard the earneſt ſupplications of his country, and obeyed it's call. He took the reins of government into his hands in this moſt difficult ſeaſon; under his adminiſtration, the United States have riſen, from the loweſt ſtate of indigence, weakneſs, and diſgrace, in the ſhort period of three years and a half, to a very high ſtate of power, opulence and dignity.

It is in vain for me to attempt to do juſtice to his character; while true merit is eſteemed, or virtue honoured, mankind will never ceaſe to revere the memory of this hero; and, while gratitude remains in the human breaſt, the praiſes of Waſhington ſhall dwell on American tongues.

He ſeems to me to poſſeſs in himſelf, the united characters of Hero, Patriot, Warrior, Politician, Stateſman, Legiſlator, Magiſtrate, &c. and, in addition to theſe, to be the man of honour, ſympathy, and ſincere friendſhip; and, above all, he truly FEARS GOD, and is a SINCERE CHRISTIAN. He was brought up, and ſtill continues, an Epiſcopalian, but is a firm oppoſer of all eſtabliſhments, and eccleſiaſtical tyranny, and a univerſal friend to mankind.

He generally goes to the Epiſcopalian church every Sunday, without any parade, or vain pomp; rides

rides with his lady in a chariot with a ſingle pair of horſes, without any guard or attendants. I am told that he frequently goes to the church called, *St. Paul's*, in Philadelphia; where one DR. MAGAW is miniſter, and has for his colleague, Mr. JOSEPH PILMOOR, a very popular preacher, well known both in England and America; though, no doubt, he ſometimes goes to hear DR. WHITE the Biſhop of the Epiſcopal church in Pennſylvania, who is one of the moſt amiable men alive.

Theſe few traces of the General's life and character, drawn from the beſt authorities, are intended for the inſtruction and amuſement of the public.

AN

ACROSTIC.

GREAT man of merit, influence, and might,
Endu'd by Heav'n with truth, and wiſdom's light,
On this return of thy auſpicious day,
Receive the tribute of my humble lay;
Gen'ral, Dictator, Ruler, Patriot, Friend,
Enjoy thy country's honours to the end.

When God Almighty, gave creation birth,
And laid the firm foundations of the earth,
Settled the laws which all his works obey,
He ſaw, and he appointed thee thy ſway,
In that choice land where freedom firſt aroſe,
Nor fear'd, nor fell before her num'rous foes;
Gave an example which ſhall always ſhine;
There waſt thou born, fair freedom's land is thine.
On thee hath Heav'n caus'd glory to deſcend,
Nor will it fail to crown thy happy end.

Pre-

Preſerve, O Lord, a life to man ſo dear,
Regard that chief, who doth thy laws revere;
Enthron'd within our hearts, he rules by love,
Supremely favour'd by the God above;
In him, with joy and wonder, we behold,
Diſintereſted love, contempt of gold;
Engag'd his country's welfare to purſue,
Now are its higheſt honours all his due;
There let them reſt, nor envy dare to view.

Of all his toils, America to raiſe
Friends of true greatneſs, all will give him praiſe.

The wond'rous man who wielded ſword and pen,
How great a benefactor he hath been!
Endear'd his name to all his countrymen.

United in himſelf at once we view,
Nice judgment, prudence, patience, valour too;
In his fam'd character, at once we find,
Thoſe virtues which are ſing'lar in mankind;
Engaging mildneſs, join'd with martial ſkill,
Determin'd reſolution to fulfil;

Serious devotion, and benevolence,
Truth, probity, ſincerity, good ſenſe;
Alike prepar'd for cloſet, cab'net, field,
The ſame in war or peace, his country's ſhield.
Enjoy, O favour'd land! this bleſſing lent;
Such is GEORGE WASHINGTON, your Preſident.

O land

O land of freedom, plenty, happineſs,
Forever may the Lord thy dwellings bleſs:

Newly diſcover'd land, where freedom reigns,
Over thy hills, and vales, and fertile plains,
Revere and love the God who made you free,
That rais'd a champion for your liberty,
Happy, O land, in ſuch a chief as he.

Awake my nobleſt ſtrains, and hail the day,
My heart is warm, and all my words obey;
Enchanted, I could dwell upon the ſong,
Rich with enliv'ning ſcenes; a glorious throng!
In that delightful country, we may find
Comely religion with fair freedom join'd,
And ev'ry bleſſing that can bleſs mankind.

LONDON, Feb. 11, 1792.

SCHEDULE

MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM

SCHEDULE

of the

Whole Number of PERSONS within the ſeveral DISTRICTS

OF THE

UNITED STATES,

ACCORDING TO AN ACT

"Providing for the Enumeration of the Inhabitants of the *UNITED STATES*," paſſed March 1, 1791.

DISTRICTS.	Free white Males of 16 years and upwards including Heads of Families.	Free white Males under 16 years.	Free white Females including Heads of Families.	All other free Perſons.	Slaves.	Total.
Vermont	22,435	22,328	40,505	252	16	85,539
New Hampſhire	36,086	34,851	70,160	630	158	141,885
Maine	24,384	24,748	46,870	538	none	96,540
Maſſachuſetts	95,453	87,289	190,582	5,463	none	378,787
Rhode Iſland	16,019	15,799	32,652	3,407	948	68,825
Connecticut	60,523	54,403	117,448	2,808	2,764	237,946
New York	83,700	78,122	152,320	4,654	21,324	340,120
New Jerſey	45,251	41,416	83,287	2,762	11,453	184,139
Pennſylvania	110,788	106,948	206,363	6,537	3,737	434,373
Delaware	11,783	12,143	22,384	3,899	8,887	59,094
Maryland	55,915	57,339	101,395	8,043	103,036	319,728
Virginia	110,936	116,135	215,046	12,866	292,627	747,610
Kentucky	15,154	17,057	28,922	114	12,430	73,677
North Carolina	69,988	77,506	140,710	4,975	100,572	393,751
South Carolina						240,000
Georgia	13,103	14,044	25,739	398	29,264	82,548

	Free white Males of 21 years and upwards including Heads of Families.	Free Males under 21 years of Age.	Free white Females, including Heads of Families.	All other free Perſons.	Slaves.	Total.
South Weſt. Ter.	6,271	10,277	15,365	361	3,417	35,691
North Weſt. Ter.						5000
						3,925,253

Truly ſtated from the original Returns depoſited in the Office of the Secretary of State.—*Oct.* 24, 1791.

T. JEFFERSON.

N.B. South Carolina made no Returns, and therefore the Inhabitants of that State are only given by Computation.

In Point of Size, the Towns in the United States may be ranked in this Order:—Philadelphia, New York, Boſton, Baltimore, Charleſton, &c.——In point of Trade; New York, Philadelphia, Boſton, Charleſton, Baltimore, &c.

Omitted in the Explanation of the Plate, 1—Connecticut-ſtreet.

A List of the Publications of the Author since he has resided in England: most of which may be had, by Application to him, at No. 5, Winkworth's Buildings.

		L	s	d
1	Philadelphian Magazine, two Volumes, half bound —	0	12	0
2	Lectures on the Prophecies that remain to be fulfilled, four Volumes, bound in calf, gilt, and lettered	1	8	0
3	Dialogues on the universal Restoration, second Edition, in boards	0	4	0
4	Four Discourses on the Face of Moses unveiled — —	0	1	0
5	Sermon on the Slave Trade —	0	0	6
6	Gospel preached by the Apostles, 2d. Edit. —	0	0	6
7	Works and Words of Jesus, (out of print) — —	0	0	6
8	Century Sermon on the Revolution	0	0	9
9	Letter to Rev. Mr. De Coetlogon	0	0	6
10	Holy Conversation, &c.	0	0	6
11	Comfort for Mourning Christians	0	0	6
12	Five Letters to Rev. Dan. Taylor	0	1	6
13	Elegy on the Death of Rev. Mr. John Wesley, 2d Edition	0	0	6

		L.	s.	d.
14	Funeral Sermon for Mr. Wesley	0	1	0
15	Wonderful Account of Mr. De Benneville, who lay as dead 42 hours, and revived —	0	1	0
16	The Lord Jesus worthy of the Love of all Men, two Discourses, on 1 Cor. xvi. 22. —	0	1	0
17	The Everlasting Gospel, &c.	0	1	6
18	The Beauties of the Millenium	0	1	0
	TOTAL	0	16	6

Now in the Press, and will be published in January next, 1793.

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